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STATE

SUBJ: Libyan Coup

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [illegible] DATE 12 JUL 1982
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1. The following transcript of McCloskey news briefing September 3 on the Libyan situation is transmitted for post's information. QTE

Question: Bob, there were reports out of the Near East that the Revolutionary Command Council of Libya has asked a stoppage of operations at Wheelus. Do you know anything on that?

Answer: Well, I'm not sure that that would be correct. But on the outbreak of the coup, we did reduce training activity at Wheelus, pending clarification of the situation, but have continued a certain number of routine medical and supply flights, and we've been in touch with the Revolutionary Command Council about the procedures.

(6)

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Question: Bob, you said that the U.S. Government had been in contact with the Revolutionary Council in Libya on the use of Wheelus. Have they told you anything about the use of Wheelus at all?

Answer: Well, I don't know that there has been specific references. There may have been. What they did tell us was, and they told other governments yesterday, that they would honor existing treaties and international obligations.

Question: Going back to Libya, Bob, do we intend to maintain the suspension of training flights until we hear from the Revolutionary Council, or not?

Answer: Well, I'm not sure that I know exactly what will unfold here. We got several questions before us that decisions will have to be made on. I don't have the impression that the suspension of training flights so far has presented a great disadvantage. But, as I say, until the situation has further

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clarified, we'll be considering certain decisions.

Question: Thank you, Bob. UNQTE.

End.

RICHARDSON

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